

CH-763

Circa 1906

Hetty and Tom Wright House

Marbury

Private

Erected around 1906, the Hetty and Tom Wright House is an excellent example of vernacular Queen Anne architecture in Charles County. The two-story dwelling consists of an irregular roofline and floorplan, a wrap-around porch with scrollsawn brackets, and projecting bays. The interior is exceptionally well-preserved featuring original woodwork and finish throughout. The Wright House is one of the better preserved historic resources in the Victorian village of Marbury, which grew as a result of the establishment of the Naval Proving Ground in Indian Head. The dwelling was constructed after 1904 when Thomas J. Wright who purchased 62 acres from William F. Erichs.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-763

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Hetty and Tom Wright House

other

2. Location

street and number 4940 Bicknell Road not for publication

city, town Marbury vicinity

county Charles

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Theodore E. De Lozier, Jr.

street and number PO Box 201 telephone 301-743-7395

city, town ~~Charles County~~ Marbury state MD zip code 20658

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 20 p. 177

city, town La Plata liber 2980 folio 525

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
- ☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- ☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- ☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- ☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
- ☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report
- ☐ Other

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	2 2 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	2 2 Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			0

7. Description

Inventory No. CH-763

Condition

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Erected in 1906, the Hetty and Tom Wright House is an excellent example of vernacular Queen Anne architecture in Charles County. The two-story dwelling consists of an irregular roofline and floorplan, a wrap-around porch with scrollsawn brackets, and projecting bays. The interior is exceptionally well-preserved featuring original woodwork and finish throughout including original kitchen cabinetry.

The dwelling faces north toward Bicknell Road and stands on high ground with a sweeping view of the Mattawoman Creek/Potomac River valley. The original German siding was covered in abalone shell stucco circa 1935. The dwelling includes original windows and square-edged wood window surrounds throughout. Asphalt shingles cover the roof which is accentuated with molded cornice returns on the principal elevations and Victorian-era lighting rods. The foundation is of continuous brick parged with concrete. The front north elevation includes a 2/2 light window pair on the first and second story below a 4-light compass window in the attic story. The formal entrance is lighted by a transom and stands sheltered under the wrap-around hipped roof porch. The entrance includes an original carved wood door. Above the door is a single window in a recessed bay.

The west elevation is accentuated by a cross gable toward the rear of the dwelling that includes a 4-light compass window in the attic story above a double 2/2 window on the second-story. The wall surface is further divided by a projecting hipped-roof bay on the first floor. This bay also includes a paired 2/2 light window. The narrow side walls of the cross gable include 1/1 windows on the first and second floor. The rear elevation has two off-centered second-story windows above a rear entrance door and window. The first floor is sheltered by a hipped roof porch with scrollsawn brackets mirroring the north elevation ornamentation. The west end of the porch includes a small enclosed area with a doorway. The east elevation includes a single second story and single first floor window on the main front gable wall. Toward the facade is a single second story window above the wrap-around porch. A secondary entrance off the kitchen is sheltered by the porch.

The interior was restored two years ago and includes original Victorian bullseye and pilaster door surrounds, turned newel, turned corner boards, mantels, and kitchen cabinetry. The front foyer includes an early lighting fixture and carved wooden door. Despite its projecting bays, the dwelling has a traditional floorplan consisting of a double-pile, side-passage plan. The stair passage is located on the east wall in front of the kitchen. To the west of the hall is a small parlor and dining room.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-763

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates 1906

Architect/Builder Unknown

Construction dates 1906

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The Hetty and Tom Wright House is an excellent example of vernacular Queen Anne architecture in Charles County and is one of the better preserved historic resources in the Victorian village of Marbury, which grew as a result of the establishment of the Naval Proving Ground in Indian Head. The dwelling was constructed after 1904 when Thomas J. Wright who purchased 62 acres from William F. Erichs.(1)

The single most important and long-lasting industry established in Charles County during this period was the naval ordnance manufacturing plant built at Mattawoman Neck in 1890. The Naval Proving Ground was moved to Mattawoman Neck when transportation from the former Proving Ground at Annapolis to the Naval Gun Factory in Washington, DC became too dangerous. Nearly nine hundred acres of land was purchased for the proving ground, and later supplemented by an additional ten thousand acres on Stump Neck. In 1898, the Naval Powder Factory was constructed, and the first powder was manufactured in 1900. During World War I, transportation to and from the factory was improved by the construction of a railroad spur from White Plains in 1917.

Although the Proving Ground was moved to Dahlgren, Virginia in 1921, the plant continued to operate and began tests that would lead to the development of jet propulsion and rocket testing at the naval station. From the beginning, the plant and proving ground provided an important and stable center of employment for the county. During the war years, the plant expanded, requiring more laborers. The town of Indian Head grew up just opposite the gates of the installation. The Navy contributed to the housing and education of its employees and their children by building housing and a school at Indian Head.

The village of Marbury is situated on high ground on the former plantation of the Marbury family. During the early 20th century, Marbury included a post office and barber shop as well as Twiford's Store and Lumber Yard. Most of the town residents were in some way dependent on Indian Head for their livelihood. Marbury was connected to the proving ground at first by a locally built narrow footbridge and after 1917 by a unique hand drawn footbridge that allowed coal barges to proceed upstream in Mattawoman Creek. Congressman Sydney Mudd was the driving force behind the federally funded footbridge construction stating that, "The purposes of this bridge is to afford direct and convenient communication to the government employees, for nearly 50% of them have homes on the Marbury side of the creek." Further evidence of the impact of the proving ground to the adjoining region can be found in census records from 1890-1920 which reveal that the election district of Pomonkey, including Indian Head and Marbury, was the only area of growth in Charles County during the period. Between 1910 and 1920 the population nearly doubled from 1589 to 3,124. In 1920, a new census district was established in Marbury having a population of 1,392. (2)

Endnotes

(1) Charles County Land Records Liber 17 Folio 324.

(2) Carlisle, Rodney P. Powder and Propellants : Energetic Materials at Indian Head, Maryland, 1890-1990. Washington, D.C. :

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CH-763

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 23.3

Acreage of historical setting 23.3

Quadrangle name Indian Head

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cathy Hardy/Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Charles County Planning

date 2/3/2003

street and number 200 Baltimore Street

telephone 301-396-5815

city or town La Plata

state MD zip code 20646

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

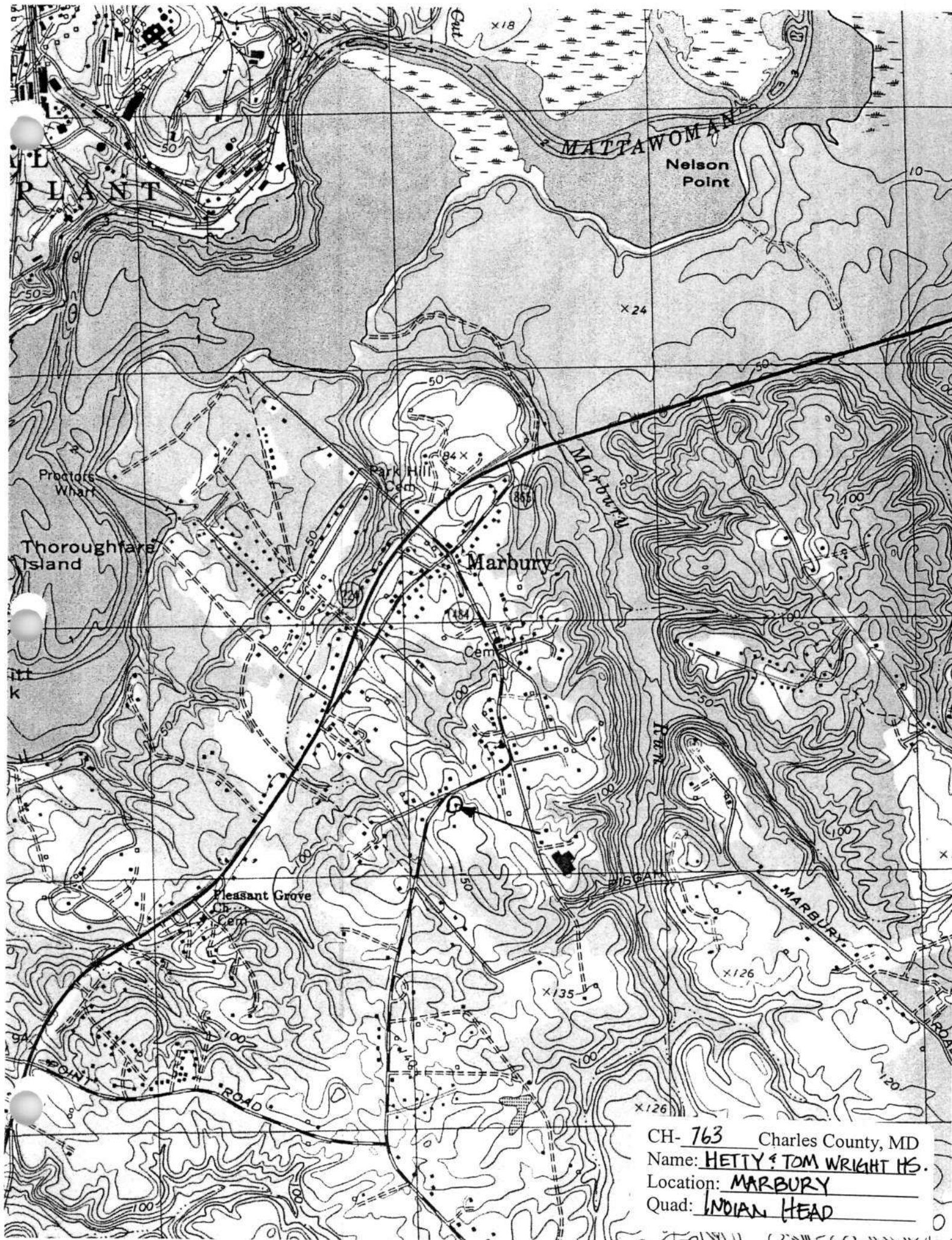
Inventory No. CH-763

Section 8 Page 1

Hetty and Tom Wright House
name of property
Charles County, MD
county and state

Chain of Title:

- 2000 Theodore E. Delozier, Jr., Personal Representative of the Estate of Mildred W. Delozier (Estate No. 11665), Surviving Tenant by the Entirety, to Theodore E. Delozier, Jr. Buildings and improvements.
2980/525
- 1971 Edith Wright Winkler, Mildred Wright Delozier, Malburn Cox Wright, and George Carlton Wright, Jr., devisees under the Last Will and Testament of Hettie C. Wright to Theodore E. Delozier, Sr. and Mildred Wright Delozier, his wife, as tenants by the entireties. 23 acres. Buildings and improvements.
242/401
- 1959 James C. Mitchell to Hetty Wright and Thomas J. Wright, her husband. Buildings and improvements. (Hetty Wright and Thomas J. Wright to James C. Mitchell on the same date 143/455)
143/457
- 1906 Thomas J. Wright to Hetty Wright. 62 acres.
17/324



CH- 763 Charles County, MD
Name: HETTY & TOM WRIGHT HS.
Location: MARBURY
Quad: INDIAN HEAD



CH-763

Hetty & Tom Wright House
Charles Co, MD

C. Hardy

Plot 2 MIHP

NORTH ELEVATION 1 of 6



CH-763

Hetty & Tom Wright House

Charles Co, MD

C. Hardy

8102

MHP
WEST ELEVATION 20x6



CH-763

Hetty & Tom Wright House
Charles Co, MD

C. Hardy

8102

MIHP

SOUTH ELEVATION

3086



CH-763

Hetty & Tom Wright House

Charles Co, MD

A. Hardy

8/02

MIHP

EAST ELEVATION

40P6



CH-763

Hetty + Tom Wright House

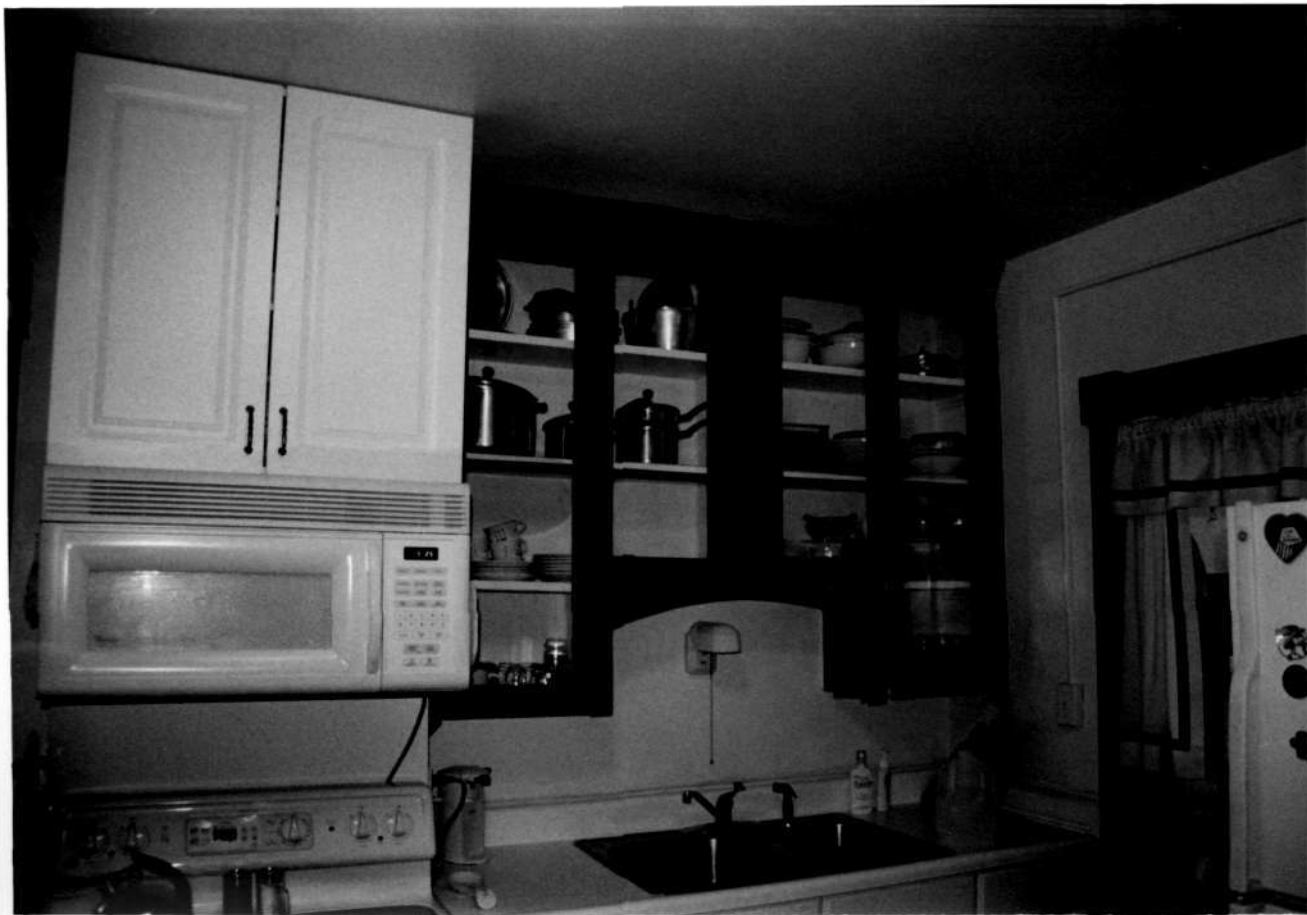
Charles Co, MD

C. Hardy

8/22 MIHP

FDY22 DETAIL

5096



CH-763
Netty & Tom Wright House
4940 Bicknell Road, CHARLES CO, MD
C. Hardy
8/02
MHP
INTERVIEW 60P6